

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Quarterly Meeting

September 13, 2010 -- 9:00 a.m. -- Lacey Community Center

M i n u t e s

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Winn - Family Child Care Provider

Paula Smith - Head of School, University Child Development School

James Skucy - Executive Director, Benton Franklin Head Start

Lorena Lowell - Child Care Center Director/Owner (ELAC Co-Chair)

Bob Hamilton on behalf of Bette Hyde – Deputy Director, Department of Early Learning

Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Leslie Goldstein - Executive Policy Advisor, Governor's Executive Policy Office

Senator Curtis King – Washington State Senate

Nina Auerbach – Chief Executive Officer & President, Thrive by Five Washington

Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Department of Early Learning

Amber Havens – Educational Training Partners

Robin Higa - Parent

Jada Rupley – Associate Superintendent (ELAC Co-Chair)

Ilene Schwartz – Children with Disabilities

John Bancroft (incoming member) – Assistant Superintendent, Puget Sound ESD

Lois Martin (incoming member) – Child Care Center Director/Owner

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd McNerney – Parent, Peter Berliner - PRI Makers Network, Susan Dreyfus -Department of Social & Health Services, Representative Larry Haler - Washington State House of Representatives, Senator

Claudia Kauffman - Washington State Senate, Maria Vera – Parent and Early Learning Expert, Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health, Charles Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Dr. Bette Hyde, Department of Early Learning, Don Bennett – Higher Education Coordinating Board, Marie

Zackuse - Tulalip Tribes of Washington

WELCOME - AGENDA REVIEW

Co-chair Jada Rupley provided an overview of the meeting, and reviewed the agenda. The primary purpose of this ELAC meeting was to discuss council business related to membership and process; to hear updates from the Department of Early Learning on WaKIDS, home visiting, the State Advisory Council (SAC) grant award, the SB 6759 work group and the budget; to celebrate the Early Learning Plan

(ELP) launch, acknowledge the work of the exiting ELAC co-chairs and members, and welcome new members.

Lorena and Jada thanked council members for an eventful tenure as co-chairs

A pre-taped video from Director Bette Hyde, provided a welcome to new members, and thanked exiting members. Director Hyde also noted that the Early Learning Plan was successfully launched and credited the Council's hard work.

DEL Deputy Director Bob Hamilton gave opening remarks, which touched on state budget issues. Bob made congratulatory remarks on completion of Early Learning Plan, and noted that the *Seattle Times* ran a column today in favor of the Early Learning Plan (ELP).

Bob presented each departing ELAC member with a certificate of appreciation for his or her participation on the Council.

New ELAC members Jennifer Jennings-Shaeffer, John Bancroft, Lois Martin and Cynthia Juarez were welcomed.

EARLY LEARNING PLAN CELEBRATION

Nina Auerbach discussed the ELP and reflected on the beginnings. The Plan took 18 months. More than 200 pages later, the Plan was launched in September.

By November, 500 copies of the Plan and 20,000 copies of the executive summary will be printed. A hard copy of the Plan will be sent to every Early Learning Advisory Council member.

KEY INITIATIVE UPDATES:

(All PowerPoint presentations are available on the DEL website at www.del.wa.gov.)

DEL Budget Decision Packages

Bob Hamilton presented information on the Budget Decision Packages

WaKIDS

Bob Hamilton provided WaKIDS presentation

- Bob Butts mentioned OSPI concerns that WaKIDS not be seen by schools as “another assessment system,” but that it actually improves instruction, therefore, the phase-in will be important.
- There is a progressive measuring instrument that will be implemented by the teacher- some teachers have volunteered to use this instrument.

See PowerPoint on DEL website.

Home Visiting Program

Kelli Bohanon presented on home visiting. Home visiting in Washington State, and an overview of the 2010 Federal Funding Opportunity – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

- DEL is lead agency
- Kelli talked about the funding, eligibility and governance structure (CAGS)
- Also discussed required needs assessment and expected outcomes, and current efforts that can be built upon.

See PowerPoint on DEL website.

State Advisory Council Grant

Kelli Bohanon presented on the State Advisory Council Grant (SAC) grant – Washington was awarded 1.7 million September 1) to provide:

- Governance in planning and supporting
- WaKIDS Quality Assurance
- Pre-K literacy and numerous grants
- Early Learning and Development Benchmark updates, training and materials
- Professional Development activities
- QRIS activities
- Grant would change ELAC's appearance – stronger role in governance, and better engagement with community resources and organizations.
- DEL will be hiring a 'governance' or ELAC administrator, WaKIDS manager, and program support.
- The State Advisory Council has a page on the DEL website.

See PowerPoint on DEL website.

Senate Bill 6759 Work Group

Bonnie Beukema and Bob Butts presented on Senate Bill 6759. Membership: OSPI, AAG, DEL, Thrive and ELAC have representation, and Bob reviewed full workgroup membership, which includes additional stakeholder appointees from ELAC. See Powerpoint on DEL website.

- Final Plan requirements (progress report is due November 2011 to QEC and ELAC)
- Timeline(Final Plan report is due November 2011 to QEC and ELAC)
- Draft Work Plan
- OSPI received \$140,000 for SB 6759 and would be passing it to DEL to fund a SB 6759 FTE. A staff person hire was planned, however, with hiring freezes, the hiring request was denied.

See PowerPoint on DEL website.

VOTING ITEMS

Bonnie reviewed ELAC co-chair criteria and the election plan with members, citing RCW 43.215.090 which speaks to co-chair elections and also indicates that the co-chairs will each serve a two-year term. There is a requirement that one representative from state government serve as co-chair, and one representative of a non –state government organization serve as co-chair.

After checking with each council member to see who would like to be considered as co-chair, Bonnie will be sending out a ballot electronically to each ELAC member. *

*Please note: After the September 13, 2010 quarterly ELAC meeting, Bonnie Beukema consulted with the Department of Early Learning's Attorney General, and it was determined that ELAC is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30, which requires all ELAC meetings be open to the public (other details specified in RCW). This meant that an electronic voting process was not able to occur. A special meeting was called for October 14, 2010 for the purpose of co-chair elections.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Olsen – commented on Career and Wage ladder and other funding cuts.

Joel Ryan asked the council to recommend not cutting Working Connections Child Care funding.

AROUND THE TABLE - OSPI has hired a new Early Learning director – Susan Johnson (will serve as OSPI's designee to council).

Suzi Wright from Tulalip Tribes was introduced. Suzi described the protocol for relationships between tribal nations and individual agencies, including DEL. The protocol depicts how we communicate and work with tribal nations. The formal protocol will be signed Wednesday September 22, 2010.

CLOSING REMARKS - Lorena and Jada provided closing remarks.

Next meeting: December 13, 2010 at Lacey Community Center.